Immigration check clearance

2561. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Passport holders are still requiring Immigration Check Clearance from Proctor of Emigration (PoE) for some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for taking the clearance from the PoE;

(d) whether Government are considering to completely abolish the clearance in near future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only persons with ECR (Emigration Clearance Required) endorsed passports are required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protectors of Emigrants before going abroad for employment. However, persons going to any of the 54 countries (list is enclosed as statement) *(See* below) are exempted from obtaining emigration clearance as these countries have adequate immigration controls and provide access to grievance redressal fora to foreign migrant workers.

(c) to (e) The objecive of obtaining emigration clearance is to ensure that vulnerable categories of unskilled/semi-skilled workers and women seeking employment as housemaids and domestic workers h2V§ proper employment documents and do not face difficulties on arrival in the foreign countries. Progressively, emigration clearance has been dispensed with for 14 categories of persons. There is no proposal to abolish the same.

Statement

List of Countries for which emigration ckeck is not required

1. Albania	28. Lithuania
2. Australia	29. Luxemburg
3. Austria	30. Malta
4. Bahamas	31. Mexico
5. Bangladesh	32. Monaco
6. Bhutan	33. Nepal
7. Bulgaria	34. Netherlands
8. Canada	35. New Zealand
9. Cyprus	36. Norway
10. Czech Republic	37. Pakistan
11. Denmark	38. Poland
12. Estonia	39. Portugal
13. Finland	40. Romania
14. France	41. San Marino
15. Germany	42. Slovak Republic
16. Gibraltar	43. Spain
17. Greece	44. Sweden
18. Greenland	45. Switzerland
19. Hungary	46. The Holy See
20. Ireland	47. Turkey
21. Iceland	48. United States of America
22. Italy	49. Yugoslavia
23. Japan	50. Belgium
24. Latvia	51. South Korea
25. Liechtenstein	52. South Africa
26. Vatican City	53. Singapore
27. United Kingdom	54. Thailand